



7 February 2005

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Water Infrastructure Development Plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject study.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. FY02 Congressional add appropriated \$400,000 to "... conduct, at full Federal expense as required by Section 1156 of Public Law 99-662, a review of plans developed by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) for improvements to its water infrastructure in order to prepare a report for transmission to Congress that could be used as the basis for authorization for the Federal government to assist the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with those improvements. The development plan, completed in May 2003, identified water infrastructure improvements totaling \$141.6M.

b. In FY05 an appropriation for \$1M has been provided to the Department of the Interior to continue work on water system rehabilitation in the CNMI. The appropriation instructs the Secretary of Interior to research authorities with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal agencies dealing with water infrastructure, to determine which authorities are available to implement the water infrastructure plan. The Secretary of Interior will provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, by 31 July 2005, an implementation plan that fully utilizes and coordinates these authorities to ensure that the plan is implemented.

c. A meeting was held with interested Federal Agencies on 27 January 2005 at the Department of the Interior's Washington, DC offices to discuss the FY05 Implementation Plan. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was represented at this meeting by Mr. Jenkins Washington, and he recommended that the CNMI's Water Infrastructure Improvement Plan be updated to delete completed projects, changed priorities and funding opportunities. Mr. Pete A. Tenorio, CNMI's Congressional Representative, concurred with Mr. Washington's recommendation. Mr. David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs acknowledged the recommendation stated that it would be addressed. However, no decision was made as to whether an update will take place. The U.S. Corps of Engineers has not received any funds to assist in the planning or coordination.